

**PROVOCATIVE READING**

# An Exciting Review of the U-2 Case

*THE U-2 AFFAIR*, by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross (Random House, \$4.95).

BY JOHN JUSTIN SMITH

You might think that after the millions of words that have been written about it, the Francis Gary Powers case has been exhausted. Not so. A pair of newspapermen have teamed up to tell the story anew, and the result is exciting reading.

In retelling the story, they have brought dramatic light to the piercing question: When, oh, when, will the United States grow up in the ugly but necessary field of spying?

Our childish naivete is demonstrated throughout the book, which ranges from Powers' takeoff to his coming down in Russia to his trial and his exchange in February.

Take just one phase of this

story — the days right after Powers' capture in 1960. Messrs. Wise and Ross (a member of the Sun-Times Washington bureau) have carefully documented our national flim-flamming and flaming.

**FIRST WE ISSUED** what they call a "cover story" in the spying industry. This was an open lie, saying that Powers hadn't intended to fly over

Russia but apparently had blacked out and had been carried there by mistake.

Next, the lie exposed, Washington told a half lie, saying we had indeed flown over Russia but that it wasn't done with official approval.

Then President Eisenhower insisted on telling the full truth, including the fact that he had known of the flight.

We looked like chumps. The Paris summit conference collapsed. Powers went to prison. The U-2 flights were stopped.

You should enjoy the book. You may even find yourself asking: Why, when Powers hit earth, didn't we just keep our mouths closed, thereby avoiding the immorality of lying? This is what sophisticated spies would have done.

